



# Spay it, Don't Spray it

Project #

22-7094

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County: Prince George's County

Number of Cats Spayed: 111

Number of Dogs Spayed: 0

Number of Cats Neutered: 99

Number of Dogs Neutered: 0

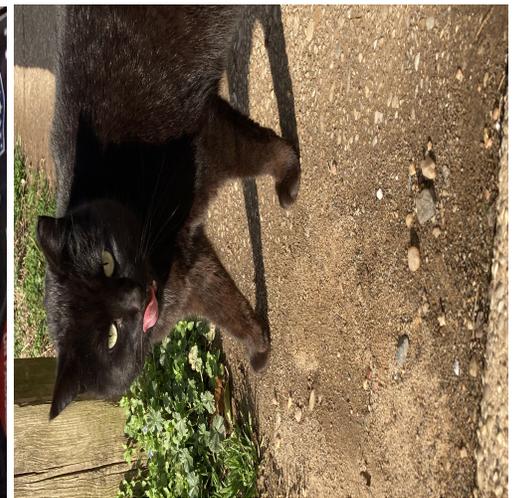
Amount Received: \$12,600.00

Amount Remaining (to be returned to MDA): \$0.00

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## Project Synopsis:

A Cat's Life Rescue (ACLR) sought and was granted funding from MDA in the amount of \$12,600 to spay/neuter 210 cats in various areas of Prince George's County. Through community-based efforts, ACLR achieved its goal before the grant cycle was up, gained new volunteers, and learned the importance of cat caretaker buy in to the process. ACLR also made community connections throughout the year that ensured that the work in these communities will continue into the future.



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## **Project Description:**

ACLR sought funding for the program "Spay It, Don't Spray It" for the neighborhoods of Upper Marlboro, Riverdale and Clinton zip codes, focusing specifically on the zip codes of 20772, 20773, 20774, 20775, 20792, 20710, 20735, 20737 and 20781 (herein referred to as "target region"). Prince George's County Animal Shelter received over 790 cat complaints in 2021 from the target region. The target region cat intake made up 9% of Prince George's Shelter total cat intakes. Addressing the TNR need in this area continued to have a direct impact on Prince George's Animal Shelter intake numbers. ACLR's large volunteer network identified colonies in the target region, set traps, transported the cats to the spay/neuter clinic, released them to the original colony and ensured they received proper care. ACLR aimed to achieve 210 spay/neuter surgeries for cats in the target region, as this was the number we could help with the amount of the grant provided.

## **Summary of Approach:**

ACLR's approach is one that is simple, yet effective. The organization's Program Director, Niki Cochran, works with volunteers daily in the feral cat communities. ACLR has always relied heavily on community building and receives information via phone, text, email, and in-person about cat colonies that are in need. Using this information, Ms. Cochran and the volunteers worked tirelessly to canvass the target region to find new colonies, and evaluated reported colonies. From there, Ms. Cochran and the volunteers worked to sterilize one colony at a time to maximize resources and aim for best results.

## **Accomplishments:**

The accomplishments that we are most proud of are first and foremost, the spay/neuter results. We hit the 210 surgeries before the grant period expired, and that speaks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. In 2022 alone, ACLR TNR'ed more than 700 cats, and without this grant from MDA, we would never have been able to hit those kind of numbers. The organization also continued to work with the Prince George's County Animal Shelter, and based on the number of referrals we get from the Shelter, we believe that they feel us to be a reliable and effective partner. Finally, we have gained new volunteers towards our cause that will help in the future. The communities we assisted still need help, and because of this project, we have made more connections in the communities and can continue to help them down the road.



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## Lessons Learned:

There are a couple of important lessons that we learned. The biggest lesson is that we need to get buy in from the feeders about the importance of spay/neuter. Unfortunately, some feeders don't understand that just feeding the cats is not enough. We need to get the feeders invested in being an active part of our process. Whether that's trapping, transporting, or keeping their eyes open to new members of cat colonies who have not been spayed, we have learned that a more engaged feeder leads to more success in our work. The other lesson that we learned is that we need more traps! The demand for TNR is out there and will continue to be long into the future. We need to make sure we have enough traps to meet the demand!

## For More Information Contact:

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